

Appl. No. 10/635,779

Amendt. dated March 16, 2005

Reply to Office Action of December 16, 2004

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Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 10 starting at line 11 with the phrase "It is pointed out..." and ending at line 26 with the phrase "the fuel cell 12." with the following amended paragraph.

It is pointed out that the anode exhaust vent 34 and cathode exhaust vent 48 are both disposed below the fuel cell 12, wherein "below" is associated with a reference to a directional force of gravity as represented by a directional arrow 53 shown in FIG. 1. By having the anode exhaust vent 34 and cathode exhaust vent 48 disposed to discharge gases from the anode flow path 24 and cathode flow path 38 below the fuel cell 12, hydrogen gas being lighter than oxygen will tend to rise above the oxygen and remain within the fuel cell 12 while heavier oxygen will tend to flow in the direction of gravity 53 through the vents 34, 48 prior to any hydrogen passing through the vents 34, 48. The anode exhaust vent 34 and the cathode exhaust vent 48 may also be in the form of vacuum release valves that prevent a vacuum from forming inside the fuel cell 12.